

REMARKS

The Office Action sets forth a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 alleging a restriction requirement for the election of a single disclosed species from among the following allegedly patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species I: Element 1, claims 1-5, 7, 12 and 15;
- Species II: Element 2, claims 6, 13 and 16;
- Species III: Element 3, claims 8-11, 14 and 17;
- Species IV: Element 4, claims 18-28, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 52 and 54;
- Species V: Element 5, claims 29-37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53 and 55;
- Species VI: Element 6, claims 62-111;
- Species VII: Element 7, claims 127-130;
- Species VIII: Method 1, claims 56-58;
- Species IX: Method 2, claims 59-61;
- Species X: Method 3, claims 112-122; and
- Species XI: Method 4, claims 123-126.

Please note that this is a different set of species than that noted in the Summary of the Invention and from that discussed in the Examiner Interview conducted on May 5, 2003. The two additional species correspond to Species VII (element 7) and Species XI (method 4) as neither of these fit directly with the nine species enumerated in the Summary of the Invention.

Election

Applicants elect Species IV with traverse. Claims 18-28, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 52, and 54 read on the elected species. In addition, Applicants respectfully request Species IX, corresponding to claims 59-61, be examined in conjunction with Species IV. Species IX corresponds to a method for producing the element of Species IV and is not considered to be distinct from Species IV. Should the Examiner find Species IX to be distinct from Species IV, please examine Species IV.

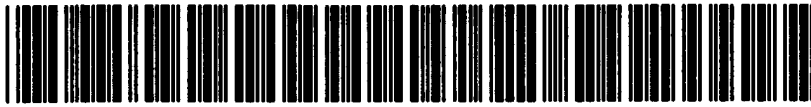
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Respectfully submitted,

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